

County Councillor Report for Parishes – November 2022 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Making Connections: A City Access Public Consultation – Have Your Say

Cambridge and the surrounding area is a vibrant, economically successful and beautiful but suffers from congestion and pollution, especially in Cambridge. For many journeys, there is currently no alternative to going by car, which means those who cannot afford to run a car have fewer opportunities. Equally as the number of jobs and houses increase, pressure on our roads will get worse and our quality of life will suffer.

On 17 October the Greater Cambridge Partnership launched a consultation on access to the City called 'Making Connections'. The proposals being considered are:

- From 2023, transform the bus network with more services to more locations with cheaper fares at £1/£2 per journey.
- Invest in better walking and cycling links.
- From 2027/28, it is proposed to create a Sustainable Travel Zone. At some times of day, drivers would be charged to travel into the zone, by Cambridgeshire County Council as the Highway Authority.
- There would be discounts, exemptions and reimbursements for some, including those on low incomes and blue badge holders.

These proposals are the result of extensive consultations; the GCP is seeking our views on this step-by-step plan to provide funding for better, cleaner, safer transport.

Have your say - You can complete the survey online here www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022 or contact the GCP by post, phone, email or social media **until midday Friday 23rd December**.

You can hear more about the proposals at a series of drop-in events across the region. There are also online events. All events are listed here: www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022.

...and confusingly, there is another consultation at the same time:

County Council Consultation on Active Travel

The County Council aims to achieve net zero carbon by 2045. Cambridgeshire's Active Travel Strategy provides a set of policies that will enable provision of active travel infrastructure and initiatives to help reach that target. By encouraging more people to travel by bike, scooter or walking, the number of journeys made by car can be reduced.

Cambridgeshire's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has been developed and will sit under Cambridgeshire's Active Travel Strategy. The LCWIP process identified the top and second priority active travel routes in each district for new or improved infrastructure for walking and/or cycling. These routes are included in the Tier 1 or Tier 2 list of schemes in the Active Travel Strategy Action Plan.

The draft strategy was produced with input from stakeholders during May and June 2022.

The public consultation on this draft Active Travel Strategy runs from 26 September to 7 November 2022. Have your say here [consultation page here](#). [Active travel strategy for Cambridgeshire public consultation | Consult Cambridgeshire \(engagementhq.com\)](#)

Following analysis of consultation responses, the strategy and action plan will be reviewed. The final document will be considered for adoption at our Highways and Transport Committee in March 2023.

Stagecoach 'Sustainable' Bus Services – changes proposed for 31 October 2022

Stagecoach announced that it will cut 18 services completely as of 30 October. Locally although the **Service 9 and Citi 2** will still run, there will be changes to the routes – and to the **P&R5** service. You

can see the details here [East Bus Network | Stagecoach \(stagecoachbus.com\)](#) Scroll down the Cambridgeshire Route Map and Cambridgeshire Timetables. If you click on the service number on the right side of the table, you can see the new timetable.

Service 11/X11 Cambridge – Newmarket – Bury St Edmunds and **12** Cambridge – Newmarket – Ely, were cut by Stagecoach but a Suffolk-based operator has bid to replace the service.

I asked Stagecoach East Managing Director for clarification. Here is our Q&A:

AB Q1 - Residents in Milton, Waterbeach and Landbeach are very worried that the altered bus services will change their lives.

Stgch - Milton to Cambridge have a 20 minutes service 2 and 15 minutes PR5 Milton P&R to Cambridge, please see the timetable for those services. Waterbeach is linked to Cambridge every 30 mins using the Milton Park and Ride bus.

AB Q2) Under the changes to the Service 9 route proposed for 30 Oct, can you let me know if the bus will stay on the A10, passing Waterbeach, Landbeach and Milton or will it stop anywhere and if so, where? The formal stops are proposed to be Cambridge Research Park – Cambridge Science Park – Drummer Street.

Stgch - Stop at Research Park, Waterbeach Caravan Park on A10 and all stops on Milton Rd. (AB – I don't know which Caravan Park he means but I think he is referring to the layby south of Bluebell Woods)

AB Q3) Will the bus go straight from Cambridge Research Park to the Cambridge Science Park along the A10, with no stops in Waterbeach or Milton?

Stgch - Yes this is correct.

AB Q4) Will riders be able to request stops?

No reply

AB Q5) Will it stop on the A10 near School Lane, Chittering or in the laybys on the A10 south of Bluebell Woods Park?

Stgch - Yes, School Lane is a stop on A10.

AB Q6) I understand the P&R5 will extend to Pembroke Avenue (Denny End Road, Waterbeach) but will the bus simply turn around there and go straight back to the A10, or carry on to Waterbeach Green and Car Dyke Road to return to the A10 and will it stop anywhere in Waterbeach?

Stgch - The Pr5 will carry on to Waterbeach Green and Car Dyke Rd.

(AB – He doesn't say the bus will stop...)

AB Q7) I note the Citi2 will extend to Tesco Milton and then to the Milton P&R. Will it also stop at the stops in Milton on Cambridge Rd, High St., Waggon and Horses and Humphries Way?

No reply

AB Q8) Can you confirm that the Service 19 will be unaffected?

Stgch - This service isn't affected.

Environment and Waste – Recycle Week

17-21 October was **Recycle Week**. Cambridgeshire County Council urged residents to wash containers and put them in the correct bin or at the Household Recycling Centre (HRC).

Over the last 20 years, the recycling rate in Cambridgeshire has increased from 24% in 2002/2003 to 53% in 2021/22, but recyclable materials are often wasted because they are dirty or put in the wrong bin. If you want to see what happens to your waste, see the webpage <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-waste> for further information.

Lots of different kinds of waste are accepted by Household Recycling Centres in Cambridgeshire – more unusual items include carpets, fire extinguishers and shoes. You can find out more at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres/what-can-i-take-to-a-household-recycling-centre>

If you're not sure about what you can and cannot recycle, then look at the 'Recycling Locator' which has been helping residents to be better recyclers by providing information about where and what they can recycle at <https://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item>.

For details of household recycling collections in your area check with the District Council at [scamsbs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/scamsbs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins)

Children – and food

Special help with the rising cost of living will be made available over the October half-term holiday to eligible families in Cambridgeshire.

The County Council agreed to earmark £3.6m to extend **the Holiday Voucher Scheme** in Cambridgeshire for each of the school holidays until the February 2023 half-term.

The scheme offers parents vouchers for a choice of supermarkets. These vouchers will be sent to eligible families automatically using school data and information held by the local authority. Those eligible for the vouchers will be pupils who meet the following criteria:

- Early Years Pupil Premium
- Children eligible for income related funded two-year-old education
- Eligible for income-related Free School Meals
- Students eligible for 16+ bursary.

The Council will issue each eligible child or young person with a £15 supermarket voucher to cover the October half term holiday period. This will be sent on 21 October. The voucher will be sent by email and/or text to the nominated parent or carer. The voucher does not need to be used in a single shopping trip and once claimed will last for at least a year.

Any child eligible for income-related free school meals, or any of the other criteria listed above, will automatically receive a voucher for the October half term holiday. Any children who become eligible up until 30 October 2022 will also receive a voucher.

Further details here: [Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher Scheme - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Fire Chief warns of reductions to county's service if funding is not addressed

The Chief Fire Officer for Cambridgeshire is warning there will have to be reductions to the county's fire and rescue service unless the way in which it is funded changes.

Chief Fire Officer Chris Strickland had budgeted to give the service a 2% pay rise but as part of national negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union, a revised cost of living pay award of 5% was offered for firefighters. Combining this with the offer already on the table for support staff, the Service will be in budget deficit of at least £1.1m at the start of April 2023. Having made £8 million worth of efficiencies over the last 12 years, the Fire Chief anticipates having to close up to three on-call fire stations and redundancies for support staff, unless he can raise more through council tax. Currently fire and rescue services can only ask for a maximum of 2% increase in council tax, (around an additional £1.50 per year for taxpayers (based on a Band D property)). If the government allows services to ask for a higher increase of around £10 per year this would provide extra income and lessen the service reductions that would need to be made. The Service expects to know its budget for 2023/24 in December, including whether there will be any change to council tax rules.

18/10/2022